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Former Soviet Union bioweapons expert to speak at INL

The U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory is hosting former Soviet Union biological weapons expert Dr. Ken Alibek for a public discussion on chemical and biological warfare, weapons systems and infectious diseases. Alibek will speak to the public at University Place Auditorium in Idaho Falls on Wednesday, March 16, from 8-10 a.m.

Since 9/11, the United States has been in a heightened state of alert to outside attacks from terrorist organizations and nation-states. Many security experts speculate that infectious, biological pathogens such as smallpox and anthrax could be used against American citizens.

During the Cold War era, Alibek was the director of a secret Russian bioweapons research and production facility. He was the chief scientist and first deputy director for a Russian bioweapons program, and was involved in the development and production of smallpox weapons.

Today, he is a U.S. citizen and advises government agencies on the activities and threats of foreign biological warfare. He is currently the president and chief scientist for Advanced Biosystems, a private company that specializes in developing defenses against biological weapons. He is also a distinguished professor and executive director for the George Mason University National Center for Biodefense.

Alibek holds a medical degree in epidemiology and infectious diseases, a Ph.D. in medical microbiology, and a Sc.D. in industrial biotechnology.

The public is encouraged to attend, however, seating will be limited to a first-come, first-serve basis. Alibek will be available for media interviews following his presentation.

INL is a DOE multiprogram national laboratory performing work in each of the strategic areas of DOE – energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center of nuclear energy research and development, and is managed and operated by Battelle Energy Alliance.

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